

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04918 310627Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02
/075 W

-----124595 310631Z /12

R 310525Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8880
INFO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T KUWAIT 4918

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI INTEREST IN PURCHASING US WEAPONS

REF: (A) STATE 204022, (B) STATE 173178, (C) 76 STATE 63992.

1. IN MEETING AUGUST 30 I INFORMED DEFENSE MINISTER SHAIKH SA'AD ABDULLAH OF USG WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS (SUCH AS VULCAN AND ERAD IN WHICH GOK HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN REASONABLE NUMBERS. DEF. MIN. EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND SAID THAT, AFTER END OF RAMADHAN (ABOUT TWO WEEKS), MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WOULD REVIEW KUWAITI NEEDS FOR LOW-LEVEL ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN SYSTEM TO BE INTEGRATED WITH IHAWK MISSILE SYSTEM AND INFORM US OF ITS INTENTIONS (REF A).

2. I ALSO INFORMED SHIAKH SA'AD THAT PREVIOUS USG OFFER TO PROVIDE SP HOWITZERS REMAINED VALID, BUT THAT CURRENT DELIVERY TIME OF LAST HALF OF 1982 UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE ADVANCED (REF B).

3. DEF. MIN REITERATED GOK DISAPPOINTMENT WITH LONG LEAD TIME FOR DELIVERY AND ASKED IF THIS COULD BE ACCELERATED. HE OBSERVED THAT I WAS AWARE OF A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04918 310627Z

FRENCH OFFER TO PROVIDE SIMILAR ARTILLERY.

4. I ASSURED SHAIKH SA'AD THAT I HAD EXPLORED EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE IN AN EFFORT TO ADVANCE THE HOWITZER DELIVERY DATE WITHOUT SUCCESS. I NOTED THAT THE SP HOWITZER WAS A VERY POPULAR WEAPON AND THAT, ACCORDING TO MY INFORMATION, A GOOD PART OF THE PRODUCTION OF

THIS WEAPON PRIOR TO 1982 WAS DESTINED FOR KUWAIT'S MIDDLE EASTERN NEIGHBORS, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND IRAN. I CONFIRMED MY AWARENESS OF THE FRENCH OFFER AND EXPLAINED THAT I WAS NOT AN ARMS SALESMAN ANXIOUS TO SELL THESE HOWITZERS, BUT THAT I SIMPLY WISHED TO REAFFIRM THAT AN EARLIER DELIVERY DATE WAS NOT POSSIBLE, SO THAT THE GOK COULD REACH ITS OWN DECISION IN THIS MATTER. MOREOVER, I WARNED SHAIKH SA'AD THAT, IF THE GOK DID NOT REACH AN EARLY DECISION ON THIS HOWITZER OFFER, I COULD NOT BE CERTAIN THAT THIS 1982 DELIVERY DATE WOULD HOLD, NOTING THAT GOK INDECISION HAD ALREADY CAUSED EARLIER DELIVERY DATE OF 1981 TO SLIP ONE YEAR. I SUGGESTED THAT ACCORDING TO CHUSLOK'S AND MY ANALYSIS OF THE KUWAITI ARMED FORCES ABILITY TO ABSORB THIS MODERN ARTILLERY, THE 1982 DELIVERY DATE WAS PROBABLY NOT UNREASONABLE.

5. DEF MIN SAID HE WOULD REVIEW THIS QUESTION AS WELL AS THE OFFER OF AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN SYSTEM WITH HIS STAFF AFTER RAMADHAN AND LET ME KNOW HIS REACTION. MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES, ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT04918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770314-0799
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977084/aaaaadam.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bdab8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 204022, 77 STATE 173178, 76 STATE 63992
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1536030
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI INTEREST IN PURCHASING US WEAPONS
TAGS: MASS, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bdab8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009